

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 21.

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Currently amended)** A method of preventing lymphocyte activation which comprises the steps of:

obtaining isolated HIV Viral Protein R (Vpr) [[Vpr]] protein; and

contacting lymphocyte cells with an amount of said Vpr protein effective to prevent activation.

22. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

23. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.

24.– 31. **(Canceled)**

32. **(Previously presented)** A method of inhibiting lymphocyte activation which comprises the steps of:

obtaining isolated Vpr protein; and

contacting lymphocyte cells with an amount of said Vpr protein effective to inhibit activation;

wherein cytokine production and secretion by immunoglobulin activation of lymphocyte cells is inhibited.

33.     **(Previously presented)**     The method of claim 32 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.
34.     **(Previously presented)**     The method of claim 32 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.